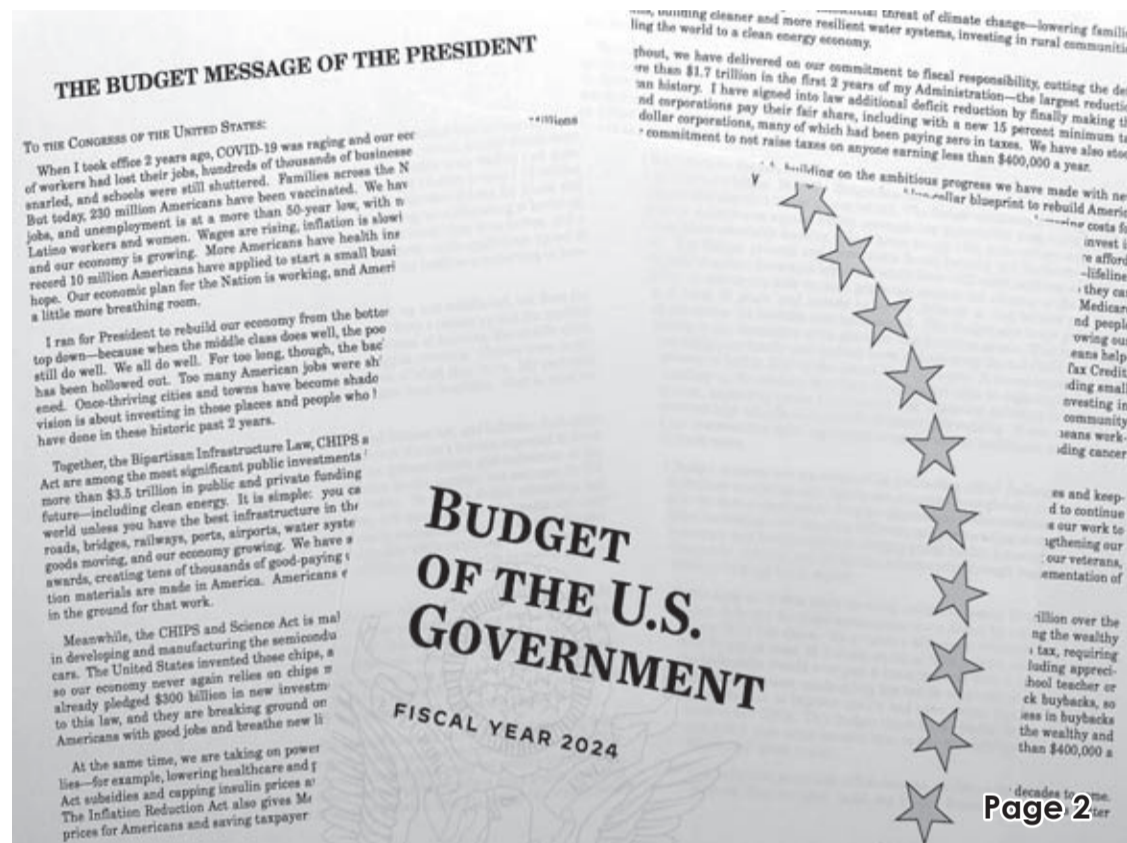




Biden lay out his budget plan, challenges GOP to follow suit



President Joe Biden's budget for fiscal year 2024 is photographed Thursday, March 9, 2023.
Associated Press

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Biden lay out his budget plan, challenges GOP to follow suit

From Front

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — As political gridlock puts the government at risk of defaulting, President Joe Biden on Thursday made an opening bid with a budget plan that would cut deficits by \$2.9 trillion over the next decade — a proposal that Republicans already intend to reject.

It's part of a broader attempt by the president to call out House Republicans who are demanding severe cuts to spending in return for lifting the government's legal borrowing limit. But the GOP has no counteroffer so far, other than a flat "no" to a Biden blueprint with tax increases on the wealthy that could form the policy backbone of Biden's yet-to-be-declared campaign for re-election in 2024. Striding around a stage at a union training center in Philadelphia, Biden seemed to be in full campaign mode as he spoke about his plan for the government's finances and how his values contrasted with Republican priorities. "I just laid out the bulk of my budget," Biden said. "Republicans in Congress should do the same thing. Then we can sit down and see where we disagree."

Yet the president doubted that GOP lawmakers could make their numbers match their calls for a balanced budget and he suggested that any efforts to do so could come at the expense of middle-class families.

"How are they going to make the math work?" Biden said. "What are they going to cut?"

Biden's package of tax and spending priorities is unlikely to pass the GOP-run House or the Senate, where Democrats hold a slim edge, as proposed.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said the president's proposed deficit reduction was inadequate. "It just seems like it's going to create the biggest government in history. I don't think that's what we



President Joe Biden speaks about his 2024 budget proposal at the Finishing Trades Institute, Thursday, March 9, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

need at this time," he said. In addition to deficit reduction, Biden's 10-year budget largely revolves around the idea of taxing the wealthy to help fund programs for the middle class, older adults and families. It would raise \$4.7 trillion from higher taxes, with an additional \$800 billion in savings from changes to programs. The tax increases include a reversal of the 2017 tax cuts made by President Donald Trump on people earning more than \$400,000 a year. Biden has floated a new 25% minimum tax on households worth \$100 million or more. Also, the tax that companies pay on stock buybacks would rise fourfold and those earning more than \$400,000 would pay an additional Medicare tax that would help to keep the program solvent beyond the year 2050. Medicare could negotiate on the prices of more prescription drugs, helping to save the government money.

Accompanying that would be \$2.6 trillion worth of new spending, including the restoration of the expanded child tax credit that would give families as much as \$3,600 per child,

compared with the current level of \$2,000. That credit would be "fully refundable," which means households could receive all of that sum even if they don't owe any taxes. The budget proposal would impose a \$35-a-month cap on insulin prices, matching a change that Biden already put in place for Medicare recipients.

At a time of increased tensions with Russia and China, the budget shows a decline in military spending as a share of the U.S. economy over the next decade. But federal spending would be equal to roughly one-quarter of economic output as the spending on Social Security and Medicare climbs, essentially keeping the government the same size as it is currently.

The budget would seek to close the "carried interest" loophole that allows wealthy hedge fund managers and others to pay their taxes at a lower rate, and prevent billionaires from being able to set aside large amounts of their holdings in tax-favored retirement accounts. The plan also projects saving \$24 billion over 10 years by removing a tax subsidy

for cryptocurrency transactions. McCarthy has called for putting the U.S. government on a path toward a balanced budget. But by refusing to raise taxes or cut Social Security and Medicare spending, GOP lawmakers face some harsh math that makes it hard to reduce deficits without risking a voter backlash before a presidential election. He has said his plan's release was pushed back because Biden's proposal was only now coming out.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., expressed skepticism that McCarthy has any coherent plan that House Republicans can coalesce around. "Enough with the dodging, enough with the excuses," Schumer said. "Show us your plan. And then show us how it's going to get 218 votes on your side of the aisle."

Biden's deficit reduction goal is significantly higher than the \$2 trillion that he had promised in his State of the Union address last month.

With the economy already in a fragile state because of high inflation, if Biden and Congress cannot agree to raise the statutory debt

cap of \$31.4 trillion by this summer, the government could default on payments and perhaps shove the country into a recession.

The budget also shows the shadow of Trump's legacy, as provisions in his 2017 tax cuts will expire after 2025. Biden wants to eliminate elements of that overhaul, arguing that lower taxes failed to produce the growth that Trump promised. But Biden's budget does not address tax cuts that benefited households making less than \$400,000: Their expiration could amount to a tax increase that would violate a pledge by Biden to only raise taxes on the wealthy. Based off the data, the cost of extending the tax breaks for people making less than \$400,000 would be \$1.5 trillion, according to Kyle Pomerleau, a senior fellow at the center-right American Enterprise Institute. That would halve the deficit savings being promoted by Biden, but Pomerleau cautioned that his estimates might be high because the president's plan includes the cost of the expanded child tax credit.

Biden's proposal would increase the top marginal tax rate to 39.6% on income above \$400,000. For households with \$1 million in income, earnings from capital gains, such as stocks or property sales, would no longer enjoy a discounted tax rate compared with wages. The president would increase the corporate tax rate to 28% and increase the tax rate on U.S. multinationals' foreign earnings from 10.5% to 21%. In February, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that the national debt held by the public will grow by more than \$20 trillion over the next decade. The publicly held debt, which reflects the cumulative impact of yearly deficits, would be equal to 118% of U.S. gross domestic product, compared with 98% this year. Biden's budget would reduce the debt, though it would still be high relative to historical levels. □

Health data breach hitting Congress 'could be extraordinary'

By LISA MASCARO and
FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

House leaders say the impact of a hack of a health insurance marketplace used by members of Congress "could be extraordinary," exposing sensitive personal data of lawmakers, their employees and families. In all, thousands of people could be affected. DC Health Link, which runs the exchange, said an unspecified number of customers were impacted and it was notifying them and working with law enforcement to quantify the damage. It said it was offering identity theft service to those affected and extending credit monitoring to all customers.

Some 11,000 of the exchange's more than 100,000 participants work in the House and Senate in the nation's capital and district offices across the nation or are relatives.

In a letter to the exchange's director posted on Twitter, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., said the breach "significantly increase the risk that Members, staff and their fami-



People walk outside the U.S. Capitol building in Washington on June 9, 2022.

Associated Press

lies will experience identity theft, financial crimes, and physical threats." The stolen data includes Social Security numbers, phones, addresses, emails and employer names.

The FBI said in a brief statement Wednesday evening it was aware of the incident and was assisting.

In the letter, McCarthy and Jeffries said the FBI had not yet determined the extent of the breach but that thousands of House members, employees and their

families have enrolled in health insurance through DC Health Link since 2014. "The size and scope of impacted House customers could be extraordinary."

They said the FBI told them it was able to purchase the stolen data on the dark web, where it was offered for sale for an unspecified amount Monday on a hacker forum popular with cybercriminals.

It was not clear, though, whether and how the FBI could guarantee that cop-

ies of the stolen data were not circulating in the cyber-crime underworld. Indeed, on Thursday, a new user on the forum claimed a hacker known as "thekilob" had stolen more than 55,000 records and exclaimed "Glory to Russia" in Cyrillic. Some of the most active cybercriminals are Russian speakers and operate with little interference from the Kremlin. The user posted 200 records from the hack online and The Associated Press confirmed the sam-

ple's authenticity with two of the victims listed.

"This is big. This isn't just like regular folks. This is everyone," said one victim who works in Washington, D.C. In all, 24 people in her office had their records in the dump. The AP is not naming victims or their workplaces to avoid further potential harm.

Sample data posted to the hacker forum by a different account and removed overnight Thursday listed data for a dozen DC Link participants. The AP reached one by phone.

"Oh my God," the man said, when informed the information was public. All 12 people listed work for the same company or are family members.

In an email to all Senate email account holders on Wednesday, the sergeant at arms recommended that anyone registered on the health insurance exchange freeze their credit to prevent identity theft. □

An email sent out by the office of the Chief Administrative Office of the House on behalf of McCarthy and Jeffries called the breach "egregious" and urged members to use credit and identity theft monitoring resources. □

GOP Leader McConnell remains in hospital after concussion

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
and LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell suffered a concussion after a fall at a local hotel and remains

hospitalized "for a few days of observation and treatment," a spokesman said Thursday.

The Kentucky senator, 81, was at a Wednesday evening dinner for the Senate Leadership Fund, a campaign committee aligned with him, when he tripped and fell. The dinner was at the Waldorf Astoria Washington DC, formerly the Trump International Hotel. Spokesman David Popp said McConnell is being treated for a concussion and "is grateful to the medical professionals for their care and to his colleagues for their warm wishes." McConnell's office did not provide additional detail on his condition or how long he may be

absent from the Senate.

Senators leaving a Republican conference lunch on Thursday said that McConnell's staff had given them an update during the meeting. Utah Sen. Mitt Romney said they were told that "he's doing well, feels fine, but had a concussion."

President Joe Biden tweeted that he wishes McConnell a "speedy recovery" and looks forward to seeing him back on the Senate floor.

Romney predicted that McConnell would stay in the hospital over the weekend and return to the Senate next week.

But concussions can be serious injuries and take time for recovery. Many

professional sporting associations have focused on the dangers of repetitive head injuries. Even a single incident of concussion can limit a person's abilities as they recover. In 2019, the GOP leader tripped and fell at his home in Kentucky, suffering a shoulder fracture that required surgery. The Senate had just started a summer recess, and he worked from home for some weeks as he recovered.

First elected in 1984, McConnell in January became the longest-serving Senate leader when the new Congress convened, breaking the previous record of 16 years. The taciturn McConnell is often reluctant to discuss his private life. □



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., speaks to reporters following a closed-door policy meeting, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Associated Press

Virginia slave laws inform judge's ruling on frozen embryos

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT**

Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — Frozen human embryos can legally be considered property, or "chattel," a Virginia judge has ruled, basing his decision in part on a 19th century law governing the treatment of slaves.

The preliminary opinion by Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge Richard Gardiner — delivered in a long-running dispute between a divorced husband and wife — is being criticized by some for wrongly and unnecessarily delving into a time in Virginia history when it was legally permissible to own human beings.

"It's repulsive and it's morally repugnant," said Susan Crockin, a lawyer and scholar at Georgetown University's Kennedy Institute of Ethics and an expert in reproductive technology law. Solomon Ashby, president of the Old Dominion Bar Association, a professional organization made up primarily of African American lawyers, called Gardiner's ruling troubling. "I would like to think that the bench and the bar would be seeking more modern precedent," he said.

Gardiner did not return a call to his chambers Wednesday. His decision, issued last month, is not fi-



A judge at the Fairfax County, Va., Courthouse, seen here on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, has ruled that frozen embryos can legally be considered property or "chattel," basing his opinion in part on how state law treated slaves before the Civil War.

Associated Press

nal: He has not yet ruled on other arguments in the case involving Honeyhline and Jason Heidemann, a divorced couple fighting over two frozen embryos that remain in storage.

Honeyhline Heidemann, 45, wants to use the embryos. Jason Heidemann objects. Initially, Gardiner sided with Jason Heidemann. The law at the heart of the case governs how to

divide "goods and chattels." The judge ruled that because embryos could not be bought or sold, they couldn't be considered as such and therefore Honeyhline Heidemann had no recourse under that law to claim custody of them.

But after the ex-wife's lawyer, Adam Kronfeld, asked the judge to reconsider, Gardiner conducted a deep dive into the history

of the law. He found that before the Civil War, it also applied to slaves. The judge then researched old rulings that governed custody disputes involving slaves, and said he found parallels that forced him to reconsider whether the law should apply to embryos.

In a separate part of his opinion, Gardiner also said he erred when he initially concluded that human

embryos cannot be sold.

"As there is no prohibition on the sale of human embryos, they may be valued and sold, and thus may be considered 'goods or chattels,'" he wrote.

Crockin said she's not aware of any other judge in the U.S. who has concluded that human embryos can be bought and sold. She said the trend, if anything, has been to recognize that embryos have to be treated in a more nuanced way than as mere property.

Ashby said he was baffled that Gardiner felt a need to delve into slavery to answer a question about embryos, even if Virginia case law is thin on how to handle embryo custody questions.

"Hopefully, the jurisprudence will advance in the commonwealth of Virginia such that ... we will no longer see slave codes" cited to justify legal rulings, he said. Neither of the Heidemanns' lawyers ever raised the slavery issue.

Jason Heidemann's lawyers said allowing his ex-wife to implant the embryos they created when they were married "would force Mr. Heidemann to procreate against his wishes and therefore violate his constitutional right to procreational autonomy." □

California sues Huntington Beach over affordable housing

By **AMY TAXIN and**

ADAM BEAM

Associated Press

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (AP) — California on Thursday sued one of its picturesque coastal cities and accused it of refusing to build more affordable housing, an issue Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom called the "original sin" of the state's housing shortage.

Attorney General Rob Bonta sued Huntington Beach, a city of about 200,000 people along the Southern California coast where the median home sales price is \$1.1 million or more than \$300,000 higher than the state average.

Bonta is asking a judge to order Huntington Beach City Council to comply with state housing laws and to punish councilmembers by making them pay a fine.

Bonta said the council has blocked new duplexes in some single-family home neighborhoods, despite a state law requiring them to do it. He also said the coun-

cil has not allowed new "accessory dwelling units" small apartments built on a property commonly known as "granny flats."

Both approaches are a key part of state lawmakers' strategy to address the state's housing shortage, which has sent rents and home values soaring while increasing the number of people on the streets. California is home to nearly a third of the nation's homeless population, according to federal data.

State housing officials say California needs an additional 2.5 million homes by 2030 in order to keep up with demand. But the state builds about 125,000 hous-

es each year, which would leave California well short of that goal.

"This is the colossal challenge that California is confronting," Bonta said. "The message we're sending to the city of Huntington Beach is simple: Act in good faith, follow the law and do your part to increase the housing supply. If you don't, our office will hold you accountable."

A Huntington Beach representative did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The city posted a message to its Twitter account on Thursday saying it is still accepting applications for accessory dwelling units. □



This aerial photo shows the pier and shoreline in Huntington Beach, Calif., on Oct. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

Italy to stiffen smuggling punishment after migrant tragedy

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni on Thursday brought her planned crack-down on people smugglers to a southern town near the coast where a wooden boat packed with migrants broke apart, killing scores and leaving many missing. In a symbolic move to highlight what she has described as her conservative government's genuine concern for migrant lives, Meloni and her ministers flew to Calabria, in the toe of the Italian peninsula, to hold a Cabinet session in Cutro's town council hall.

Meloni, anti-migrant leader Matteo Salvini, who heads the infrastructure ministry which includes the coast guard, and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani, posed for photos outside the town hall after she was greeted by the local bishop and other dignitaries.

The Cabinet was widely expected to approve far stiffer punishments for smugglers, who guide unseaworthy boats crowded with migrants to Italy's shores.

Also expected to be adopted are measures to facilitate refugees' access



From left, Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani and Infrastructures and Transports Minister Matteo Salvini arrive in Cutro, southern Italy, Thursday, March 9, 2023.

Associated Press

to so-called humanitarian corridors to Europe as they flee persecution or war in their homelands.

Many of the dead and survivors in the Feb. 26 tragedy were fleeing from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Syria, hoping to join family members in Italy and other Western European countries.

Earlier this week, a 72nd body was recovered, nine days after the boat

crashed into a sandbank just off Steccato di Cutro beach, started taking on water and splintered apart. Eighty people survived, many of them staggering ashore on the beach after swimming from the wreck. Dozens are still believed to be missing after the wreck of the boat, which survivors said had set out from Turkey with around 180 passengers days earlier.

Opposition leaders and

humanitarian groups have decried Italian authorities' decision not to quickly dispatch coast guard rescue boats after a Frontex patrol aircraft spotted the wooden boat about 40 nautical miles (72 kilometers) off Calabria's coast hours before the pre-dawn wreck on Cutro's beach in adverse sea conditions.

Frontex is the European Union's border and coastal protection agency.

Earlier this week, Italy's interior minister, who implements the government's migration policy, insisted in a speech to lawmakers that Frontex in its communication to Italian authorities hadn't indicated any sign of distress and no one aboard the ill-fated boat had sent out any alarm.

Even as Meloni's government presses the crack-down, hundreds more migrants have stepped ashore on the southern island of Lampedusa in recent days.

Many arrived without needing rescue. Italy's coast guard and border police boats plucked dozens of others to safety from the sea this week in the central Mediterranean. Among them were 45 migrants, including five newborns, rescued on Wednesday, and another 38 saved by the coast guard after their boat sank in Malta's air-and-rescue sector.

In another Italian coast guard operation, 20 migrants were saved when their boat ran into trouble after setting out from Sfax, Tunisia, and a woman's body was recovered, Italian state television said. □

China criticizes Dutch plan to curb access to chip tools

BEIJING (AP) — China's government on Thursday criticized the Netherlands for joining Washington in blocking Chinese access to technology to manufacture advanced processor chips on security and human rights grounds.

A Dutch minister told lawmakers Wednesday that exports of equipment that uses ultraviolet light to etch circuits on chips would be restricted on security grounds. ASML of the Netherlands is the only global supplier. Industry experts say a lack of access to ASML's most advanced technology is a serious handicap for China's efforts to develop its own

chip industry.

Washington in October blocked Chinese access to U.S. tools to make advanced chips that it said might be used in weapons or in equipment for the ruling Communist Party's surveillance apparatus. The Biden administration is lobbying European and Asian allies to tighten their own controls.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman complained that "an individual country," a reference to the United States, was trying to "safeguard its own hegemony" by abusing national security as an excuse to "deprive China of its right to development."

"We firmly oppose the Netherlands's interference and restriction with administrative means of normal economic and trade exchanges between Chinese and Dutch enterprises," said the spokeswoman, Mao Ning. "We have made complaints to the Dutch side."

Mao appealed to the Netherlands to "safeguard the stability of the international industrial and supply chain."

ASML's extreme-ultraviolet, or EUV, equipment uses light to etch microscopically precise circuits into silicon, allowing them to be packed more closely together. That increases



The logo of ASML, a leading maker of semiconductor production equipment, hangs on the head office in Veldhoven, Netherlands, Monday, Jan. 30, 2023.

Associated Press

their speed and reduces power demand. The Dutch government has prohibited ASML from exporting its most advanced machines to China since 2019, but the company is allowed to supply lower-quality systems. Chinese manufacturers can produce low-end

chips used in autos and most consumer electronics but not those used in smartphones, servers and other high-end products.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and U.S. President Joe Biden held talks in January on ASML's chip machines. □

Apology letter found after U.S. citizens killed in Mexico

By **ALFREDO PEÑA**

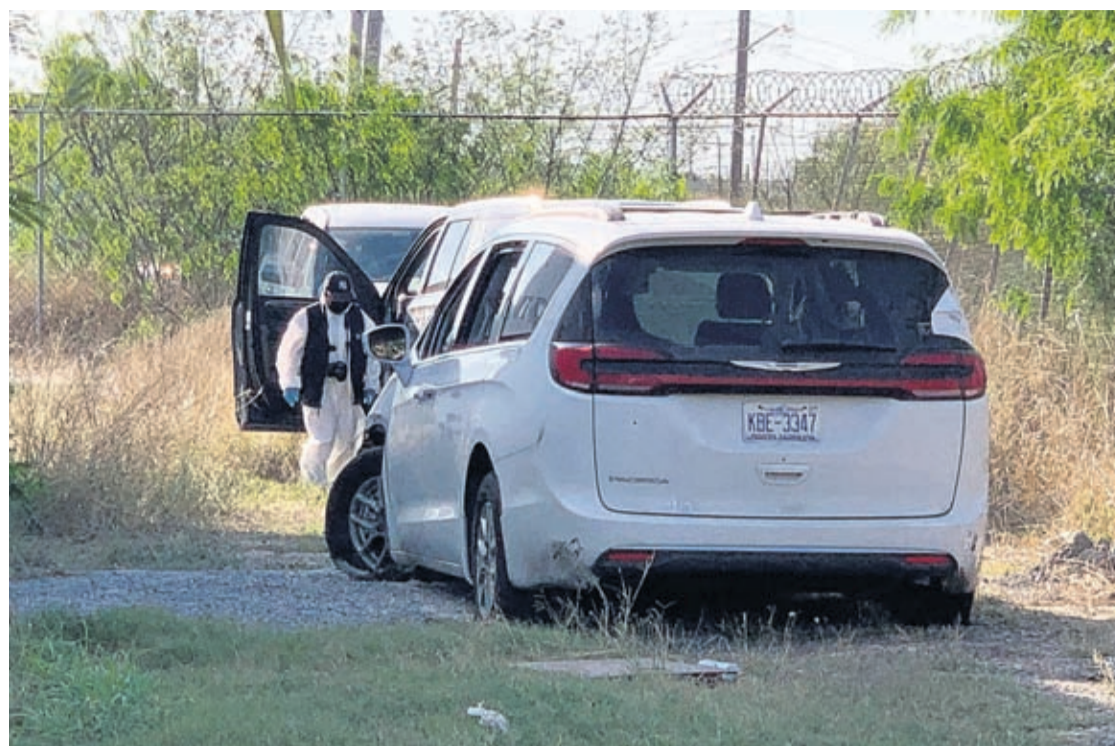
Associated Press

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico

(AP) — A letter claiming to be from the Mexican drug cartel blamed for abducting four Americans and killing two of them condemned the violence and said the gang turned over to authorities its own members who were responsible. In a letter obtained by The Associated Press through a Tamaulipas state law enforcement source, the Scorpions faction of the Gulf cartel apologized to the residents of Matamoros where the Americans were kidnapped, the Mexican woman who died in the cartel shootout, and the four Americans and their families.

Drug cartels have been known to issue communiques to intimidate rivals and authorities, but also at times like these to do some public relations work to try to smooth over situations that could affect their business.

"We have decided to turn over those who were directly involved and responsible in the events, who at all times acted under their own decision-making and



A Mexican police investigator inspects the minivan where four Americans were shot and taken from last week, at the Tamaulipas State Prosecutor's headquarters in Matamoros, Mexico, Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

lack of discipline," the letter reads, adding that those individuals had gone against the cartel's rules, which include "respecting the life and well-being of the innocent."

A photograph of five men face down on the pavement and bound accompanied the letter, which was shared with The Associated Press by the source

on condition that they remain anonymous because they were not authorized to share the document.

State officials did not immediately publicly confirm having new suspects in custody.

A separate state security official said that five men had been found tied up inside one of the vehicles that authorities had been

searching for, along with the letter. That official also spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the case.

Last Friday, four Americans crossed into Matamoros from Texas so that one of them could have cosmetic surgery.

Around midday they were fired on in downtown Mat-

amoros and then loaded into a pickup truck.

Another friend, who remained in Brownsville, had called police after being unable to reach the group that crossed the border Friday morning.

Brownsville Police Department spokesman Martin Sandoval said Thursday that officers followed protocol by checking local hospitals and jails after receiving the report of the missing people. A detective was assigned to the case within the hour and then alerted the FBI after realizing the people had crossed into Mexico. Shortly after, the FBI took over the case as social media videos began to show a shootout with the victims matching the description of the missing people.

Authorities located them Tuesday morning on the outskirts of the city, guarded by a man who was arrested.

Two of the Americans were dead, one was wounded and the other was unharmed.

On Tuesday, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland blamed the drug cartels for the Americans' deaths. □



This aerial photo released by Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, shows a village affected by landslide on Serasan Island, Natuna regency, Indonesia.

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Rescue workers recovered more bodies buried under tons of mud following a landslide that crashed onto a hilly village on Indonesia's remote Natuna islands, bringing the death toll to 32, officials said Thursday. The landslide, triggered by torrential downpours,

plunged down surrounding hills on Monday, burying 30 houses in Genting village on a tiny remote island in the Natuna archipelago at the edge of the South China Sea, the National Search and Rescue Agency said in a statement.

Authorities have deployed nearly 700 rescuers, includ-

Indonesia landslide death toll hits 32; 22 still missing

ing police and military, with heavy equipment to search for 22 people still missing who were apparently trapped in houses that were buried under the landslide, which was 4 meters (13 feet) deep, said Abdul Rahman, who heads Natuna's search and rescue agency. "Improved weather allowed us to recover more bodies," Rahman said in a video statement. Eight people were pulled out alive with injuries, three of whom are in critical condition, National Disaster Management Agency chief Suharyanto said Thursday. They were rushed late Monday to a hospital in Pontianak city on Borneo island, about 300 kilometers

(186 miles) from Genting, but one person died at sea on the way. The search and rescue operation had been hampered by heavy rains around the disaster site.

Weather had forced the search effort to be halted several times, while downed communications lines and electricity also have impeded the operation, said Suharyanto who, like many Indonesians, uses a single name.

"We are doing our best to find the missing victims," Suharyanto said, adding that sniffer dogs were also being mobilized in the search. Two helicopters and several vessels carrying rescuers, medical teams and

relief supplies, including tents, blankets and food arrived on the island from Jakarta and nearby islands on Wednesday. Monday's landslide displaced about 1,300 people who were taken to four temporary shelters, Suharyanto said.

Authorities feared the death toll could still rise.

"Relief supplies have reached those in need so far," he said. Seasonal rains and high tides in recent days have caused dozens of landslides and widespread flooding across much of Indonesia, a chain of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile flood plains close to rivers. □

Unemployment rates for women in Aruba dropped in 2022

(Oranjestad)—This week we celebrated International Women's Day, a day dedicated to the achievements of women around the world in different aspects of life. Even though today's world is much more forward-thinking and the gap between men and women is much smaller than it used to be, there are still significant differences and inequality that women still fight against, one example being in the labor sphere.

One of the inequalities between men and women that is still of social importance is the wage gap. According to UN Women, women are only paid 77 cents for every dollar a man makes on a global level and the gap is even bigger when it comes to working mothers. This is a fundamental cause when it comes to the wage gap between men and women.

Data shows that those of the world's population who are of age to work and that form part of the active community, 49.6% of them are women, and 76.1% are men. Even though millions of women have been able to obtain jobs in the last few decades thanks to globalization, these figures show a massive gap which women rights organizations are currently still trying to close.

Women represent half of the world's population, and should be able to have access to decent paying jobs. There should also be policies and regulations in place to help combat inequality between genders.

In terms of maternity or paternity leave around the world, only 63 countries comply with the norms established by The International Labor Organization (ILO), which have indicated that mothers should be able to enjoy at least 14 weeks of paid maternity leave.

Though different countries have adopted some forms of policies for this, barely 28% of the feminine labor force around the world is granted paid maternity leave.

The topic of unemployment is also a challenge. Globally, women are more likely to be unemployed compared to men. The figure for global unemployment is at 5.8%, of which 5.5% is men and 6.2% is women.

In connection with International Women's Day, the minister of Labor,

Energy and Integrity, Mr. Glenbert Croes, published the most recent data by the Department of Labor and Investigation (DOA) on women in the labor market on Aruba on the Facebook page of the cabinet of Prime Minister Wever-Croes.

According to the data, the figure for unemployment amongst women has dropped to 6.6% in 2022, compared to the 9.7% registered back in 2021.

"Today, DAO wishes to give attention to the essential contribution by women to the economy of Aruba. As a country, we have a duty to take necessary actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), in which one goal calls for the equality for women," the statement expressed.

SDG's consist of 17 goals that aim to bring sustainable development in countries around the world. On International Women's Day, DAO ratified the importance of SDG #5 (Gender Equality) and SDG #8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

The statement by Minister Glenbert Croes indicated that this year, the ILO and the UN have decided that the theme for this year's celebration is "DigitALL". This theme represents the importance of technology for the equality between genders.

"Innovation, technological changes and education in this new digital era is important and emphasis has been placed on women to participate more in STEM careers in order to also form part of careers concerning innovations," he expressed.

He further explained that gender inequality is produced in different ways and in different scenarios. For women, besides having to work a full-time job, they are often times also the main caretakers at home. For women with full-time jobs, this phenomenon is referred to as a second shift, seeing as there is also work to be done when they get home.

He also added that for many decades, the social values and norms imposed on the genders have created an imbalance in the family dynamic, where women are investing more time in taking care of the family and home compared to men. According to data from the UN, women in developed countries are investing on average ap-



proximately 90 minutes more in every-day house work compared to men.

The data from the DAO indicates that the figure of unemployment for women have dropped from the 9.7% in 2021 to 6.6% in 2022; the working female population have seen a growth in 2022 compared to the previous year. Of all labor contracts for an indefinite amount of time, 53% of these represent

women working 6 days a week. 1 in 3 women are employed in the hospitality and food sector, which is the largest employment sector on the island.

The average salary for a working woman in the private sector is 3,257.77 Florins. The rate of participation from women has dropped from 57.9% in 2021 to 56.7% in 2022 compared to the rate of participation from men that was at 62.5% in 2022. □

Papillon: the butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. She points out that all Covid-protocol is in place here, they are very keen on hygiene and offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with social distancing in place and right on the high-rise strip.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.



you with his keyboard talent. The musicians interact with the guests, requests can be send in, the live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too.” What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

Let the music play!

We will give you another reason to visit: on Monday's and Friday's the famous Marisela who enchants you with her acoustic performance accompanied by percussion only; on Thursday's and Saturday's you can enjoy the tunes of live sax player Jairo and on Sunday's and Tuesday's Jose Herrera will enchants

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Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — as from now on two interesting museums on Aruba are open to the public again. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you the two locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba Museum of Industry in San Nicolas, better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Mu-

seum of Industry is part of Fundacion Museo Arubano (FMA), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban culture sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 1 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various op-

tions, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit,



financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent

exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts an attractive public program including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

Beauty & THE BEACH

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Agustina and Dalila from Argentina**, who say their favorite things on the island are the historic center and plazas in the downtown area. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

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Veggie Boost

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Konkomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Konkomberchiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin

B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

Jambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di Jambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra



has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonchi' Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy

and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pompuna

In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year-round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pompuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □



Can I have a ..., please?



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change?? How about a different breakfast from what you are used to at your hotel. Hop in your car, drive around and anywhere around the island you will come across a local snack shop.

Here you will find all types of snacks loved by the locals. Try a pastechi, a Caribbean pastry filled with cheese or meat and fried up deliciously. Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, a crusty little meat ball. A dedito is also a good option, it's a stick made out of cheese or hotdog. If you want to try something more familiar go for a homemade hamburger or a ham and cheese toast, but with a local touch. All these snacks are ridiculously addictive. Freshen up with a delicious fruit shake (batido) made out of watermelon, strawberry, banana, papaya or just mix any fruit together. What makes these little snack shops more attractive is the warmth of its people and with the smile you are being served. □

Jair Dijkhoff 'Casper': "Aruba needs to unite in music, support each other, show respect and show love"



(Oranjestad) — He is a young man whose talent in the last few months surpassed expectations when he made both young and old dance to the phrase "Feeling good...feeling nice". Our reporter sat down with Jair Dijkhoff 'Casper', the king of Aruba Caiso and Soca Monarch 2023, Winner of Roadjam 2023 and artist of the year according to several media outlets.

Jair Dijkhoff, better known as Casper, is a young man raised in several neighborhoods in Tanki Leendert, Noord, Madiki and Dakota. From a very young age, Casper started his singing career. Then he played baseball and by the age of 13 or 14, he joined the brass band, which became

a part of his life to this day. At 20 years old, he volunteered in different activities in order to build a base to do many things. He currently works at WEB in the Receipt Department.

He further told our reporter that he joined the radio industry, where he hosts a radio program called "Jai-goo's Groovyhour" from 5pm to 7pm every day. In 2022, he decided to participate in the biggest a music event on the island, which was the "Caiso and Soca Monarch". It is here that his origin story in the soca world started. This year, he won the honorary titles of Rockie of the year and Radio Jam Artist of Carnival at Roadjam.

"I always loved soca and

it's one of my favorite music genre, and this crazy idea became a reality thanks to my Mighty Campo to helped me: Sergio Barros, Jeronim Lampe, Hubert Thiel," he said.

When he got up on stage for the first time to perform the song that everyone now asks radios to play, Jair expressed that he felt very nervous: "My heart was beating out of my chest, but once I got on stage and saw the audience, my nerves went away and I got real excited."

When Jair won the winning title at the Caiso and Soca Monarch, there were certain opinions that noted that Caiso and Soca is a genre of San Nicolas. This caused uproar online and certain people in media

even addressed this.

About this topic, Jair had this to say: "I got a lot of criticism from big-named people known at San Nicolas that see me winning as bad, but everyone has their opinions. I respect everyone and I will keep the same charisma and love for everyone, as well as the respect for different opinions. They have the right to make their own decisions and to express themselves, and it doesn't faze me, because I don't focus on the negative, but the positive." Moreover, he affirmed that young people have more of a chance now to "expand our carnival and Caiso and Soca Monarch. I don't think we should tear each other down, but Aruba needs to unite in music; we can accomplish bigger

things instead of criticizing each other."

Now that the carnival season has passed, Jair informs that he will be pursuing other projects in mind and that people will be hearing from him again this year: "We will be releasing two or three new songs this year God willing."

To finalize, Jair would like to relay his message: "In order to keep supporting each other, show respect, show love—not to just expand our carnival, but our culture too, I hope to see more young people willing to achieve their dreams in life, or to chase any crazy idea they may have. I hope to see a united and blessed Aruba, with many successes in the future for everyone." □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Blown away
 - 1 Beer amounts
 - 6 Pet store buys
 - 11 Birth-related
 - 12 Calendar entry
 - 13 Texas landmark
 - 14 Joyful
 - 15 Under the weather
 - 16 Under-wear type
 - 18 Maui souvenir
 - 19 Naughty act
 - 20 Wisdom bringer
 - 21 Headliner
 - 23 Sculpting medium
 - 25 "Platoon" setting
 - 27 Bro's sibling
 - 28 Moving about
 - 30 Endure
 - 33 Nest egg acct.
 - 34 Bashful pal
 - 36 First número
 - 37 MIT rival
 - 39 Boar's mate
 - 40 Michelle or Malia
- DOWN**
- 43 City of southern France
 - 44 Striped cat
 - 45 Virtuous one
 - 46 Goes downhill
 - 1 Slow movers
 - 2 Bill holder
 - 3 Soppres-sata, e.g.
 - 4 Whale group
 - 5 Casino machines
 - 6 Sticks
 - 7 Declare
 - 8 Knack-wurst, e.g.
 - 9 Incense
 - 10 Fashion
 - 17 That guy's
 - 22 Maze runner
 - 24 Motor need
 - 26 Home of many
 - OPEC nations
 - 28 Mecca setting
 - 29 Bird of myth
 - 31 Deceived
 - 32 Castle parts
 - 33 Pics to click
 - 35 Vouchers
 - 38 Govt. agents
 - 42 Goose egg

BEET				LOYAL
ELSE				DIRECT
TMAN				ELATED
HOUSE				CAT
ENROLL				ICE
MEETS				MANNA
USA				PORKER
STRAW				HAT
MAPLES				HERO
ATEASE				OTIS
YEAST				WADS

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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13					14				
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37			38					39	
40						41	42		
43						44			
45						46			

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-10

CRYPTOQUOTE

SGBQB'N YKSGHYD CKQB
BCZTQQTNNHYD SGTY SK GTOB
BTQYBE SGB EHNPTOKQ KP T
A B Q R B A S H O B T Y H C T I

— CHRGTFBI RGTZKY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU'VE GOT TO JUMP OFF CLIFFS ALL THE TIME AND BUILD YOUR WINGS ON THE WAY DOWN. — RAY BRADBURY

Should remote workers take hush trips? Experts weigh in

By SALLY FRENCH
of NerdWallet

Emily Smith was working two jobs at a hotel and at a retail store when she realized she was in dire need of a break. Smith, based in Vancouver, British Columbia, says her employers didn't usually approve of her vacation days, so she invented a fake family emergency, claiming she'd need to work from home. Instead, she went to Las Vegas.

"I took meetings poolside, and I timed my flights to happen outside working hours," she says. "All my work was completed in a timely manner so neither of my bosses ever asked." That was back in 2012, when most jobs demanded an in-person presence. About 10 years later, more people are working remotely (or poolside like Smith). According to U.S. Census Bureau data released in 2022, more than 27.6 million people worked primarily from home in 2021. That's triple the number of people working from home in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even with the rise of remote work, some workers are hesitant or don't feel the need to tell their employers when they plan to work from another location outside of their home. That's why they've started taking "hush trips," where employees work from a vacation destination without revealing their true whereabouts to their boss. Often, these workers will take advantage of leisure activities in their off hours, combining work and play into one trip. Recreational vehicle rental website RVshare commis-



A passenger jet approaches Kansas City International Airport to land as geese fly overhead, Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

sioned a survey, conducted by Wakefield Research, about hush trips and other travel trends in September 2022. According to the survey, 56% of working American adults said they are "very" or "extremely" likely to partake in a hush trip. And 36% of Generation X and millennials claim to already have one planned for 2023.

For those with employers that are stingy about vacation days, hush trips can provide rejuvenation. However, some employers disapprove of the secrecy and don't want workers anywhere besides their home office, period. But does it even matter if workers share their whereabouts?

PROBLEMS THAT CAN ACCOMPANY HUSH TRIPS

Amy Marcum, a human resource manager with HR service provider Insperity, warns that hush trips can cause friction if word gets out.

"Some employees may feel that their colleagues are taking advantage of the generous work-from-home policies, leading to conflicts," she says.

Executive coach Robin Po

u points to another negative consequence: the breakdown of trust between employees and managers.

"The leader always finds out, driving them to wonder why the employee was trying to hide something in the first place," he says. "This erosion of trust can be a cancer to team dynamics." Lisa M. Sanchez, a human resources executive at ArtCenter College of Design, says she's not convinced employees are effective while on hush trips. "Who's motivated to work when there's a turquoise beach and a fruity drink waiting for them?" Sanchez says. "What does one do if they are called into an impromptu emergency meeting and they are in flight?"

Then there are also security concerns around bringing employer-issued computers out of town or logging onto unknown Wi-Fi networks. Plus, there could be unexpected tax implications for employers if workers are working from another state or country too long.

WHY HUSH TRIPS AREN'T NECESSARILY A BAD THING

The whole premise of a hush trip might help expose problems in the workplace to begin with. "Leaders need to look themselves in the mirror and wonder what type of environment they've created where their team member doesn't feel comfortable having conversations directly with them," Pou says. □

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The way we eat could add nearly 1 degree of warming by 2100

BY DREW COSTLEY
AP Science Writer

Greenhouse gas emissions from the way humans produce and consume food could add nearly 1 degree of warming to the Earth's climate by 2100, according to a new study. Continuing the dietary patterns of today will push the planet past the 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) limit of warming sought under the Paris climate agreement to avoid the worst effects of climate change, according to the study published Monday in Nature Climate Change, and will approach the agreement's limit of 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). The modeling study found that the majority of greenhouse gas emissions come from three major sources: meat from animals like cows, sheep and goats; dairy; and rice. Those three sources account for at least 19% each of food's contribution to a warming planet, according to the study, with meat contributing the most, at 33%. All emit large amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas with more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide, in the way they are currently farmed. The researchers calculated that methane will account for 75% of food's



Butchers prepare cuts of meat at Smithfield Market on July 18, 2016, in London.

share of warming by 2030, with carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide accounting for most of the rest. "I think the biggest takeaway that I would want (policymakers) to have is the fact that methane emissions are really dominating the future warming associated with the food sector," said Catherine C. Ivanovich, a climate scientist at Columbia University and the study's lead author. Ivanovich and colleagues from the University of Florida and Environmental Defense Fund calculated the three major gases produced by each type of food over its lifetime based on current consumption patterns. Then they scaled the annual emissions over time by gas based on five different population projections.

And then they used a climate model frequently used by the United Nations' panel on climate change to model the effects of those emissions on surface air temperature change. Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field, who wasn't involved in the study, said it used well-established methods and datasets "to produce a novel, sobering conclusion." □

Associated Press



ARUBA TODAY

Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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Bruce Lee, Anna May Wong heirs talk legacy, roles for Asians

By **TERRY TANG**

The Associated Press

Almost every working Asian actor in Hollywood can trace their path back to Bruce Lee and Anna May Wong.

The Chinese American screen legends are typically talked about the way one talks about revered ancestors.

One was a martial arts icon, the other an actor who stood out during the silent film era despite playing women who were either submissive or dragon ladies. Both are credited with demonstrating Asians could be more than just extras for movies about China or Chinatown.

Although Wong was born in 1905 in Los Angeles and Lee in 1940 in San Francisco, their families like to imagine they crossed paths.

"They may have. Well, they may have seen each other at like a party or something," said Anna Wong, the elder Wong's niece and namesake.

"My father was an actor when he was a child in Hong Kong. So, you know, he may have seen some of her films that came across," Shannon Lee chimed in. "He loved to see Hollywood films as well when he was young."

Lee and Wong had never met before doing a recent joint Zoom interview with The Associated Press. They discovered parallel experiences protecting the legacy of a family member who happens to be an icon of both Hollywood and Asian America.

They have seen their relatives' popularity ebb and flow over decades. They have grappled with bogus long-lost child claims, weird licensing requests and on-screen portrayals out of their control. But they've also seen how the fascination continues: There are museum exhibits, TV show projects and an American quarter tribute.

With "Everything Everywhere All at Once" poised to snag trophies at the Oscars on Sunday particularly for Asian cast members Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy

Quan both women reflected on how things have changed since the blatant-

pictures her father Anna May Wong's brother kept around the house.

Lee added. Even earning a lead role didn't necessarily mean a



Anna Wong, niece of the late actress Anna May Wong, left, poses with Shannon Lee, daughter of the late martial arts actor Bruce Lee, at Douglas Park in Santa Monica, Calif., on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Associated Press

ly racist practices that permeated Wong and Lee's heydays.

Lee has a "soft spot" for Yeoh because she came from kung fu cinema like her father. She's thrilled for Yeoh's recognition, especially because for so long Hollywood used Bruce Lee to justify casting Asians only as characters there just to karate chop.

"Of course she's doing action in the film but being recognized for her artistry and her acting and for all of that is really heartwarming for me to see," she said. "And Ke as well who ... as a young kid was very sort of stereotyped and he was put in a box because of it." It's especially phenomenal when compared with Anna May Wong's era, according to her niece.

"Back in those days, no one had an Asian man and an Asian woman in the lead roles," Wong said. "It's crazy how far we've come. But then again, how far are we?"

While Lee was 4 when her father died, Wong never met her aunt. She knew her as "the pretty lady" in the

"When he started telling me about the pretty lady, I was wanting to realize who she was," Wong said. "And then I became obsessed with her films and seeing all kinds of things."

Both grew up hearing stories of how Anna May Wong and Bruce Lee fought hard against stereotypes, yet were sometimes stuck in unwinnable situations.

After gaining fame in movies like "The Thief of Bagdad" and "Shanghai Express," Anna May Wong suffered one of the greatest disappointments of her life in 1937. She lost the lead role of a Chinese villager in "The Good Earth" to Luise Rainer, who was white. Rainer went on to win a best actress Oscar.

The younger Wong brings this up on the lecture circuit. Millennial audiences "find it completely irrational to say, 'Okay, so let's take a Caucasian person and make them up to look like an Asian person and ... no one will notice,'" Wong said.

"It's actually a good thing that today's generation thinks that that's crazy,"

big payday for Asian talent. Before Bruce Lee went to Hong Kong and made hits like "The Big Boss" and "Fist of Fury," he was Kato in "The Green Hornet." The TV series premiered in 1966, only lasting a season and carrying a massive pay disparity.

"When you look at the pay stubs and then they say what everyone's getting paid, he's like way down on the bottom," Lee said. "Hopefully, there's changes happening there."

Neither actor was ever nominated for an Oscar. But the 2020 Netflix miniseries "Hollywood" depicted an alternate universe where Anna May Wong played by Michelle Krusiec won an Oscar. It created a nuisance for her niece and a reminder of a sad time in the actor's life.

"After that series came out, people said, 'Do you have her Oscar?'" Wong said. "I'm thinking, 'You know that that series was fictionalized, right?'"

Quentin Tarantino's 2019 flick "Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood" featured a fictitious scene of Bruce

Lee picking (and losing) a fight with Brad Pitt's stuntman character. His daughter criticized the cameo as nothing but "horrible tropes," even penning an op-ed in The Hollywood Reporter.

"With this one film now everybody's like, 'Oh, that's what Bruce Lee was really like,'" Lee told the AP. "No, that was not what he was like at all."

Anna May Wong died in 1961 at 56 and Bruce Lee died in 1973 at 32. All these years later, the interest in them hasn't abated.

In a total coincidence, both families recently signed on as producers of biopics. Lee is working with Oscar-winning director Ang Lee (no relation), Wong with "Crazy Rich Asians" star Gemma Chan.

"Ang is a very earnest, gracious man. I think he wants to make a really great film," said Lee, who's been working on her movie for several years. "I would say in this moment I am cautiously optimistic."

Wong almost walked away from her project when several self-proclaimed "Anna May Wong experts" reached out to producers but they reassured her they're "not going to take these people on when we can have an actual relative of Anna May Wong."

They both also receive (and often deny) steady merchandising proposals like Anna May Wong tea-cups and Bruce Lee football helmets, snack bowls and tin guitars.

"I guess I have to say it does speak to the love that people have. So I'm grateful for that," Lee said.

Both women hope people take away lessons in perseverance when looking at Bruce Lee's and Anna May Wong's lives. They were "symbols of what's possible," Lee said.

"For them to have gotten the opportunity to get on the screen, in the first place meant that they had extremely big energy, amazing work ethic and then they were able to accomplish the impossible in some way," she added. □

Detroit boxing scene fighting to make comeback to relevance

By LARRY LAGE

AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Inside the MotorCity Casino one recent night, there were roars from the crowd as boxer after boxer was knocked out. A few laughs, too, when a fighter's vomit stopped one bout and another was delayed because a competitor failed to put on a protective cup.

Watching from a front-row seat was Thomas Hearn, the revered fighter known as "The Hitman." Now 64, he was hailed by the approximately 2,000 fans when highlights were shown of his career that included titles in five weight classes. "I like what I'm seeing," Hearn told The Associated Press between fights on an 11-bout card. "Fighters are getting more action."

The bad news for the event, and for Detroit's once-fabled boxing scene in general, was that Hearn was easily the biggest name on hand. The best active boxer from Detroit is fighting this weekend on the other side of the world because his hometown does not host big-time bouts these days. Former champion Tony Harrison (29-3-1, 21 KOs) is fighting Australian Tim Tszyu (21-0, 15-0 KOs) on Sunday in Sydney for the vacant WBO 154-pound title. Showtime will air the fight in the U.S. on Saturday night. The 32-year-old Harrison, who was managed early in his career by famed trainer Emanuel Steward, had his fourth fight at the MotorCity Casino. His last fight in Detroit, though, was nearly



World Boxing Council's Junior Middleweight champion Tony Harrison, left, stands with former boxer Thomas "The Hitman" Hearn during the second half of an NBA basketball game between the Detroit Pistons and the Utah Jazz, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019, in Detroit.

Associated Press

a decade ago in the Cobo Center Ballroom.

"There's no support for fighters no more," Harris told AP from Australia, wearing a Detroit Tigers baseball cap. "It should be the highest support for fighting because people from Detroit, they know how to do one thing and that's fight. Inside the ring. Outside the ring. Fighting paycheck to paycheck, rent to rent."

While Harrison has trained in Detroit at his own gym, he has been forced to go from coast to coast and other countries to compete. The fighter known as Superbad, a nickname Steward gave him, handed Jermell Charlo his only loss and took his 154-pound title in New York in 2018, then lost the championship in Canada a year later in an

11-round rematch.

"It's so sad that Tony doesn't have opportunities here because he's an accomplished fighter," said Jackie Kallen, who was Hearn's publicist and managed former champion and Michigan native James Toney. "Hopefully, he will win this weekend to help put him on the map with more people."

Joe Louis, a famed boxer who moved to the Motor City as a child, Sugar Ray Robinson and Hearn represented the city as world champions and are regarded as all-time greats. Fighters from around the world, including former heavyweight champions Joe Frazier and Wladimir Klitschko, were schooled by Detroit-based trainers Eddie Futch and Steward.

When Louis started his career in the late 1930s and boxed for more than a decade, Detroit had more than 1.5 million residents and was the fourth or fifth-largest city in the United States, a foundational cradle of the nation's automaking industry. The fights at Olympia Stadium and Cobo Arena, where the Red Wings and Pistons once played, were legendary for decades.

By the time Hearn was done throwing his feared right hand in 2006, the city had taken so many blows of its own over the decades that its population was knocked out of the country's top 20 towns. These days, the city and the sport are fighting to get up off the mat. But boxing is still here, if at a smaller

scale.

In addition to the low-level professional fights, the sport will draw more than 1,000 competitors on March 25 for a weeklong USA Boxing qualifier in a convention center just down the street from "The Fist," the 24-foot bronze sculpture that honors Louis in downtown Detroit.

Boxing is also used as a vehicle to enrich the lives of children with after-school programs.

"It's not the sport of boxing that keeps the kid off the street," said Khali Sweeney, founder and CEO of the Downtown Boxing Gym. "It's the connection that you make with the kid. Boxing is just the icebreaker."

Harrison's gym, Superbad Fitness, also fights for children in Detroit to give them an athletic, academic and social outlet to stay off the streets. "For me, winning in life is helping other kids be successful in life," Harrison said.

A pair of promoters, Carlos Llinas and Dmitriy Salita, are pushing the sport in the Detroit area with a periodic series of bouts in smaller venues in hopes of bringing it back to the masses.

"That's definitely the ultimate goal, to be at Little Caesars and be able to fill that arena the way we fill this consistently," Llinas said backstage at the MotorCity Casino. "That just goes to show that people are hungry for boxing. What it is going to take is that next superstar that will develop from this, I like to call it a farm league." □

Patrick McEnroe chosen new Tennis Hall of Fame president

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — Former player and current TV analyst Patrick McEnroe will be the new president of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, and USTA Foundation chief executive Dan Faber was chosen as the Hall's new CEO.

The Hall announced the appointments on Thursday and said McEnroe and Faber will begin their roles

on May 1. Todd Martin resigned as CEO of the International Tennis Hall of Fame in October after nearly a decade in the post.

McEnroe, younger brother of John McEnroe, won the 1989 French Open men's doubles title and was a singles semifinalist at the 1991 Australian Open. He was the U.S. Davis Cup captain from 2000-10, winning the

title in 2007, and the head of player development for the U.S. Tennis Association from 2008-14.

Faber increased the USTA Foundation's revenues by \$14 million in a decade there.

Former world No. 1 and 2017 inductee Kim Clijsters was named the Hall's honorary president, an ambassadorial role, in August. □



Patrick McEnroe speaks during a news conference at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sept. 3, 2014.

Associated Press

Ohtani leads Japan in World Classic, Bogaerts lifts Dutch

TOKYO (AP) — Shohei Ohtani hit a two-run double off the left-field wall, allowed one hit over four innings and got the win, leading Japan over China 8-1 on Thursday night in its opener at the World Baseball Classic.

The Los Angeles Angels two-way star, struck out five and walked none in the Group B game at the Tokyo Dome. His fourth-inning double off Weiwei Wang gave Japan a 3-0 lead. Ohtani retired his first 10 batters before Weiwei Wang's single in the fourth. Ohtani threw 32 of 49 pitches for strikes.

In the other Group B game, Robbie Perkins and Robert Glendinning hit three-run homers to lead Australia over South Korea 8-7. In Group A, Xander Bogaerts and Jurickson Profar homered as the Netherlands beat Panama 3-1 and Italy beat Cuba 6-3 behind Nicky Lopez's two-run single that capped a four-run 10th inning.

Before a crowd of 41,616 in the Tokyo Dome, Japan went ahead in the first when the St. Louis Cardinals' Lars Nootbar singled leading off and loser Xiang Wang walked three straight batters, including two-time Central League MVP Munetaka Murakami with the bases loaded.



Netherlands Shairon Martis pitches to a Panama batter in the first inning during the World Baseball Classic (WBC) at the Taichung Intercontinental Baseball Stadium in Taichung, Taiwan, Thursday, March 9, 2023.

Nootbar made a sprawling catch in center on Jinjun Luo in the second.

Pei Liang cut the gap to 3-1 with a sixth-inning homer off Shosei Togo, but Shugo Maki homered in the seventh against Changlong Su and Takuya Kai capped a four-run eighth with a two-run double after Tetsuto Yamada hit an RBI single and Sosuke Genda walked with the bases loaded.

Japan, the 2006 and 2009 champion, plays South Korea on Friday while China takes on the Czech Republic.

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AUSTRALIA 8, SOUTH KOREA 7

TOKYO (AP) — Perkins gave Australia an 8-4 lead with an eighth-inning homer off Hyeon-Jong Yang, who threw only seven pitches and got no one out.

Logan Wade's second-inning sacrifice fly and Kennedy's solo homer off Young Pyo Ko in the fifth built a 2-0 lead but Euiji Yang hit a three-run homer against Daniel McGrath in the bottom half.

ByungHo Park had RBI dou-

ble in the sixth that made it 4-2, a play originally called a home run before an umpire review. Glendinning homered off loser Won Jung Kim in the seventh and Perkins against Hyeon-Jong Yang in the eighth. Steven Kent, Will Sherriff and Sam Holland combined for five walks and a hit batter in a three-run bottom of the eighth, when Holland struck out Sung Bum Na to strand two runners.

Jon Kennedy, the fourth of nine Australia pitchers, got the win.

NETHERLANDS 3, PANAMA 1 TAICHUNG, Taiwan (AP)

— The Netherlands, after beating Cuba in the opener, won its second game in two days.

Bogaerts homered in the third off loser Jaime Barria, and Profar went deep in the fifth against Alberto Guerrero.

Erasmus Caballero's RBI single in sixth against Mike Bolsenbroek pulled Panama to 2-1, and Bogaerts doubled in the eighth and scored on a Alberto Baldonado's wild pitch.

Winner Shairon Martis allowed three hits in 3 1/3 scoreless innings.

ITALY 6, CUBA 3, 10 innings TAICHUNG, Taiwan (AP)

— Cuba dropped to 0-2.

Brett Sullivan hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the sixth off Naykel Cruz and Miles Mastrobuoni added an RBI double in the seventh against Liván Moinelo. Lorenzo Quintana pulled Cuba to 2-1 in the bottom half with an RBI single against Vinny Nittoli, and Erisbel Arruebarrena hit a tying single in the eighth off winner Matt Festa that drove in Alfredo Despaigne.

John Valente hit a tie-breaking single in the 10th off loser Raidel Martínez.

Italy is 1-0 and faces winless Taiwan on Friday. Cuba plays Panama. □



Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant (35) drives to the basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks, Sunday, March 5, 2023, in Dallas.

Associated Press

By **DAVID BRANDT**
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Kevin Durant's home debut with the Phoenix Suns will have to

wait a little longer.

The 13-time All-Star slipped on the floor during pregame warmups and was ruled out Wednesday night

Suns' Kevin Durant out after injuring ankle in pregame slip

against the Oklahoma City Thunder because of left ankle soreness.

The game was supposed to be Durant's home debut with his new team. He has played in three games since being traded to the Suns, but all were on the road.

"We'll get more testing done tomorrow," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "Right now, it's just an ankle sprain and we don't have anything official to report." Video showed Durant driving to the basket during warmups when he rolled his left ankle as he jumped.

He immediately hopped up and continued his pregame work, but several minutes later, the Suns confirmed that Durant would miss the game.

He was not on the bench during the game. Torrey Craig started in Durant's place and the Suns rolled to a 132-101 victory for their fourth straight win. Devin Booker scored 44 points. Durant averaged 26.7 points and 7.3 rebounds in his three games with Phoenix. He wasn't in the locker room when it was opened for postgame media access.

"I know how much he loves to play and wanted to play," guard Chris Paul said. "But stuff happens."

Phoenix traded for Durant and T.J. Warren in a blockbuster deal in February, sending Mikal Bridges, Cam Johnson, Jae Crowder, four first-round picks and other draft compensation to the Brooklyn Nets.

The Suns have looked like a juggernaut in the three games Durant has played, winning all of them. But the slip was a reminder that the 34-year-old has missed a lot of time with injuries over the past four seasons. □